



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

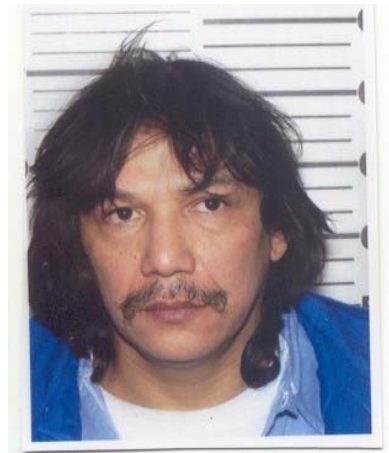
February 11, 2005

# News Release

## ICE DEPORTS WORTHINGTON CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIEN

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers today deported an illegal alien convicted of assaulting a Worthington man.

Miguel Alberto Vaquero-Fuentez, 39, a citizen of El Salvador, was convicted by a jury in Nobles County District Court Nov. 13, 2003 of second degree assault with a dangerous weapon and sentenced to 27 months in jail. He was also ordered to pay the victim \$390 in restitution.



Vaquero-Fuentez confronted a Worthington man who was fishing in Chautauqua Park in May 2003, according to a criminal complaint filed in district court. Vaquero-Fuentez, who is also known as “Chupas,” parked his car near the victim, opened the trunk, and removed a piece of metal that resembled a “knife that is used to cut grass,” according to the victim. He threw the object at the victim but missed.

Vaquero-Fuentez then took what was described as a wood bat from the car’s trunk and assaulted the victim. The Worthington police officers that arrived at the scene shortly after the incident observed that the victim was bleeding from the lip and had bruises and bite marks on his arms. The victim told authorities that Vaquero-Fuentez believed he was having an affair with his wife.

“It’s a priority for ICE to get criminal aliens off the streets and then out of the country,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi. “Deporting criminal aliens has a significant impact on maintaining security within our communities.” Cangemi oversees the enforcement of immigration and customs laws for a five-state area that includes Minnesota.

ICE special agents encountered Vaquero-Fuentez while he was serving his sentence for the crime and placed a “detainer” on him, so that ICE was notified and took custody of him prior to his release from prison. In an effort to ensure public safety, ICE conducts checks of jails and prisons nationwide under its Institutional Removal Program to locate, identify and then deport criminal aliens.

Vaquero-Fuentez first entered the United States illegally in 1981 and lived in Los Angeles for a time, where he also has a criminal record. He was convicted there of auto theft in 1993 and felony theft in 1996. He received a one-year sentence for each crime.

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal agents removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes: Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as: drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, and fraud, among others. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file Vaquero-Fuentez, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at [Tim.Counts@dhs.gov](mailto:Tim.Counts@dhs.gov).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*